

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Claims 1-6 (canceled).

7. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim-6_15, wherein the trap has a thickness of less than 10 mm.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim-6_15, wherein the trap has a thickness of approximately 2 mm.

Claims 9-11 (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim-9_15, wherein the detector is an ion trap mobility spectrometer.

Claims 13 and 14 (canceled).

15. (previously presented) An apparatus for testing whether an object contains a substance of interest, said apparatus comprising:

a testing station for receiving the object to be tested;

a trap formed from a silica-carbon foam metal having a reticulated open cell structure and disposed for receiving a flow of air from the testing station;

a heater for heating the foamed metal trap sufficiently to volatize material on the trap;

an air pump for generating a flow of air across the trap; and

a detector for receiving the flow of air across the trap and for testing whether the flow of air across the trap contains any of the particles of interest.

16. (withdrawn) A method for forming a trap for collecting trace amounts of particles of interest, said method comprising providing an aluminum alloy;

foaming the aluminum alloy to define a reticulated open cell structure having

a thickness of at least 10 mm; and

compressing the foamed aluminum to a thickness of about 2 mm.

17. (withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the trap is compressed by placing the foamed material in a press.

18 (withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the foamed aluminum is compressed by passing the foamed aluminum through a nip between a pair of rollers.